

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claim 3. Claims 1, 7, and 12 have previously been canceled. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11 and 13 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 2, 10, 11, and 13 for clarification, and amend claim 9 for proper dependency. No new matter has been added.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner objected to the term "the means for notifying" as lacking antecedent basis. Applicants amend claim 9 to depend from claim 8, which provides antecedent basis for the objected-to term. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection.

The Examiner objected to claims 10 and 11 for alleged informalities. Applicants amend claims 10 and 11 to clarify the language objected to by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10 and 11, as amended, more clearly recite the invention, and request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,560,455 to Amin et al.; and claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,212,390 to Rune et al. Applicants amend claims 2 and 13 in a good faith effort to clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Amin et al. describe a technique for flexibly restricting roaming—for example, by designating authorized roaming areas or time windows—outside of a service network. Correspondingly, Rune et al. describe an access restriction technique where a core service provider sets boundaries for restricted mobility areas within which access may be restricted.

Although both references describe a manner of location-based access restriction—outside a network (Amin et al.) and in designated restricted areas (Rune et al.)—neither reference, as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, discloses or suggests the claimed features of a home zone being a cell and location registration area or another newly defined zone unit, and accounting information on hand-overs to the home zone.

As such, Amin et al. fail to disclose,

“[a] radio switching system comprising:
a mobile subscriber;
a base station controller for controlling a transmission and reception of a signal from the mobile subscriber within its own cell;
a mobile switching center connecting with a plurality of base station controllers; and
a home location register for storing home zone information indicating whether or not the mobile subscriber is a subscriber of a home zone service, which restricts a moving area of the mobile subscriber, wherein
the mobile switching center judges responsively to a position registration request inside/outside a home zone, which is a cell and location registration area or another newly defined zone unit by the mobile subscriber, whether or not the registration is accepted in the home zone, based on the home zone information transmitted from the home location register, and
wherein each time a radio area is changed by a hand-over of the mobile subscriber, the mobile switching center further receives a hand-over request, first selects a hand-over destination by judging whether or not a base station controller as a hand-over destination candidate is under control of the home zone, and in the case where the hand-over destination candidate is under control of the home zone, renews and stores the number of times of hand-over and hand-over area information to transmit to an accounting center as accounting information, so as to utilize an accounting calculation,” as recited in claim 2. (Emphasis added)

Correspondingly, Rune et al. fail to disclose,

“[a] method of collecting accounting information in a mobile switching center in a radio switching system,
the method comprising:

in the mobile switching center, receiving a hand-over request, first selecting a hand-over destination by judging whether or not a base station controller as a hand-over destination candidate is under control of the home zone; and in the case where the hand-over destination candidate is under control of the home zone, renewing and storing the number of times of hand-over and hand-over area information to generate accounting information; and in an accounting center, receiving from the mobile switching center accounting information based on controlling a hand-over; and

editing the accounting information based on account conditions in accordance with the hand-over,

wherein the accounting information contains a subscriber identifier, and recognition information including one of the interior and exterior of a home zone, which is a cell and location registration area or another newly defined zone unit, assigned to the subscriber identifier," as recited in claim 13. (Emphasis added)

Advantageously, the claimed invention provides for a system of restricting mobility of mobile subscribers in partial ranges where such restrictions may be accounted for. To this end, the claimed invention comprises the notion of a home zone, and provide a radio switching system which provides services restricting a moving area of the mobile subscriber referencing this home zone, and a mobile switching center adapted therefor, and which is capable of providing restrictive services of a moving area in which a use aspect of the mobile subscriber is reflected in an accounting system.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is patentable over Amin et al. and claim 13 is patentable over Rune et al. for at least the above-stated reasons.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Amin et al. in view of Rune et al. Applicants cancel claim 3.

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,192,237 to Clapton et al.; and claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,018,655

to Bartle et al.

The Examiner relied upon the combining references to specifically address the additional features recited in the rejected dependent claims. Therefore, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine these references, the combinations would still have failed to overcome the deficiencies of Amin et al. discussed above with respect to base claim 2. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that claims 4-6 and 8-9 are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons with respect to claim 2, from which they depend.

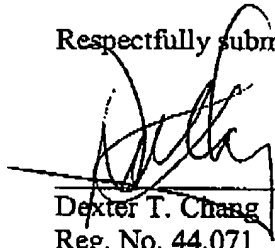
The Examiner objected to claims 10 and 11, but did not reject these claims based on any prior art references. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10 and 11 are patentable, and request that the Examiner allow these claims.

The above statements on the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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